



United States Department of State

United States Permanent Mission to the
Organization of American States

Washington, D. C. 20520

FILE

January 16, 1984

cc	Executive Registry
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Dear Bill:

2 FEB 1984

Because of your interest in our OAS activities, I wanted to share with you my speech at today's emergency session of the OAS Permanent Council on the shooting death of the U.S. helicopter pilot by the Sandinistas. As you can see, we underscore the President's statement of January 12, calling the Sandinista action "reckless and unprovoked." Today's OAS speech is part of a continuing effort to show our friends how the Sandinistas, acting as puppets for the Soviet Union and Cuba, have become the "pariahs" of the western hemisphere. Because of their own outrageous activities (and with a little help from us) the Sandinistas are becoming more isolated diplomatically from the rest of the hemisphere.

You will be pleased to hear that several of my OAS colleagues pitched in today in support of our theme that Nicaragua must live up to its 1979 promises to the OAS (not a very likely possibility) if there is to be peace in Central America.

With warm regards,

J. William Middendorf, II
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosures:

Washington Times article and
January 16 Speech

The Honorable
William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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The Washington Times January 17, 1984

National

By Glenn Emery
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

J. William Middendorf, U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, yesterday likened Nicaragua's killing of a U.S. helicopter pilot to the Soviet Union's shooting down of a Korean Air Lines passenger jet last September.

Speaking at a special session of the OAS, Mr. Middendorf said, "With a record as tainted as that of the (Nicaraguan) Sandinistas, the latest incident in Honduras comes as no surprise. Those familiar with the current Nicaraguan mentality know it is, 'Shoot first and ask questions later.' This is the same mentality demonstrated by Nicaragua's mentor and chief arms supplier, the Soviet Union, on Sept. 1, 1983, when it wantonly shot down an unarmed Korean civilian

airliner — a tragedy roundly condemned in this council."

The special session of the Permanent Council of the OAS was requested by the Honduran government following the death of U.S. Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Schwab, who was shot by Nicaraguan soldiers after landing an unarmed observation helicopter inside the Honduran border near Nicaragua.

Despite denunciations by Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica, the session ended without a resolution by the 30-member council condemning the Nicaraguan action.

The United States and Honduras charged the Sandinista regime with heightening tensions in the region.

The Sandinistas admit shooting at the aircraft because it was in Nicaraguan airspace, they said. They have not acknowledged killing its pilot.

"Even if we were to accept this Nicaraguan version of the facts, we must ask ourselves what this means in terms of the attitude of the Nicaraguan regime toward avoiding an escalation of tensions and the sanctity of human life," Mr. Middendorf said.

"Whatever the circumstances of the helicopter's position, that would not justify the confirmed facts of the Nicaraguan firing on an unarmed helicopter on the ground in Honduran territory, resulting in the death of an American citizen."

Nicaraguan representative Edgard Parrales defended last week's action by citing a litany of alleged violations of Nicaraguan airspace by the United States. He also requested an accounting from the two engineers who were in the helicopter with Mr. Schwab but escaped unhurt.

Because interviews have not been permitted, Mr. Parrales said, "We have reason to be doubtful about the way the American military authorities are handling the testimonies of these two soldiers."

REMARKS AT THE JANUARY 16, 1984 SPECIAL SESSION

OF THE

OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL

Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE U.S. DELEGATION CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE KILLING ON JANUARY 11 OF A U.S. CITIZEN BY NICARAGUAN FORCES. MY GOVERNMENT HAS LODGED A FORMAL, WRITTEN PROTEST WITH NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES. SADLY, WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION FROM THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. DEPLORING THIS LATEST INCIDENT, THOUGH, WILL NOT SOLVE THE BASIC PROBLEM. THE SAD TRUTH IS THAT UNTIL THE SANDINISTA REGIME RECOGNIZES THAT THE SOLUTION TO ITS DIFFERENCES WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND ITS OWN CITIZENS DOES NOT LIE IN EVER INCREASING ARMAMENT, SUBVERSION, AND REPRESSION; THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA WILL NOT END. LET US TAKE THE OCCASION OF THE MOST RECENT TRAGEDY TO RENEW OUR DEDICATION TO FIND A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION. LET US CALL UPON THE SANDINISTA REGIME TO FORSWEAR THE PATH OF MILITARISM AND TO COOPERATE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. THIS MEANS ESTABLISHING CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX IN OPEN AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND DIFFERENCES AMONG STATES CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL MECHANISMS.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, WE COMMEND THE DISTINGUISHED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HONDURAS FOR HIS CLEAR AND DETAILED REPORT ON THE TRAGIC INCIDENT OF JANUARY 11 CAUSED BY NICARAGUA'S DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF ITS NEIGHBORS. THE HONDURAN REPRESENTATIVE HAS GIVEN THE MAJOR DETAILS OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN UNARMED U.S. HELICOPTER BY NICARAGUAN FORCES. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE EVENTS BRIEFLY FOR THOSE WHO MAY STILL HAVE SOME DOUBTS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME ON JANUARY 11TH, A U.S. ARMY OH-58 HELICOPTER CARRYING A PILOT AND TWO U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS WAS ON A ROUTINE FLIGHT BETWEEN SAN LORENZO AND AGUACATE, HONDURAS. THE UNARMED HELICOPTER RECEIVED FIRE FROM NICARAGUAN FORCES. AFTER THE PILOT RADIOED THAT HIS CRAFT HAD BEEN HIT, HE MADE A CONTROLLED EMERGENCY LANDING ON A HONDURAN ROAD NEAR THE BORDER OF NICARAGUA. GROUND FIRE

CONTINUED FROM THE NICARAGUAN FORCES AS THE PILOT AND PASSENGERS GOT OUT OF THE HELICOPTER AND ATTEMPTED TO TAKE COVER IN A DITCH. WHILE IN THE DITCH, THE PILOT, WHO WAS AN ARMY WARRANT OFFICER, WAS STRUCK BY SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE TWO PASSENGERS, BOTH ARMY ENGINEERS, BOTH CAPTAINS, WERE NOT HIT. HONDURAN SOLDIERS STATIONED NEAR THE BORDER CAME TO THEIR RESCUE. THEY ASSISTED IN GETTING THE PASSENGERS TO CIFUENTES. THERE, DOCTORES ATTEMPTED TO TREAT THE PILOT BUT WERE UNABLE TO SAVE HIM.

THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE U.S. HELICOPTER MAY HAVE ENTERED NICARAGUAN AIRSPACE. IT IS TRUE THAT THE HELICOPTER WHICH DID NOT HAVE SOPHISTICATED NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO HEAVY WINDS, SO THAT WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT HAVE ACCIDENTALLY CROSSED INTO NICARAGUAN AIRSPACE.

NEVERTHELESS, BY THE SANDINISTAS' OWN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, THE HELICOPTER HAD NOT TAKEN ANY HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST NICARAGUA, AND WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DEPARTING NICARAGUAN AIRSPACE WHEN IT WAS FIRED UPON. EVEN IF WE WERE TO ACCEPT THIS NICARAGUAN

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VERSION OF THE FACTS, WE MUST ASK OUTSELVES WHAT THIS MEANS IN TERMS OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE NICARAGUAN REGIME TOWARDS AVOIDING AN ESCALATION OF TENSIONS AND THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.

WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HELICOPTER'S POSITION, THAT WOULD NOT JUSTIFY THE CONFIRMED FACTS OF THE NICARAGUAN FIRING ON AN UNARMED HELICOPTER ON THE GROUND IN HONDURAN TERRITORY, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

ON JANUARY 12 PRESIDENT REAGAN CONDEMNED THE FATAL ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN PILOT AND HIS TWO U.S. PASSENGERS IN HONDURAN TERRITORY AS "RECKLESS AND UNPROVOKED." WE HAVE DEFINITELY CONFIRMED THAT THE ATTACK CAME FROM NICARAGUAN MILITARY UNITS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SANDINISTA SOLDIERS INVOLVED EVEN ADMITTED SPRAYING THE HELICOPTER WITH GUNFIRE AFTER IT LANDED IN HONDURAN TERRITORY, ALTHOUGH THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT STILL DENIES THIS. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS INCIDENT, THEREFORE, RESTS DIRECTLY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA AND ITS MILITARY PERSONNEL.

THIS INCIDENT IS BUT THE LATEST IN A LONG LIST OF SANDINISTA ACTIONS DEMONSTRATING CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR THE BORDERS BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND ITS NEIGHBORS. THEY BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER THE SANDINISTA TAKEOVER IN JULY, 1979, LONG BEFORE THE ARMED INTERNAL RESISTANCE TO THE SANDINISTAS STARTED, AND HAVE CONTINUED UNABATED TO THE PRESENT. THESE ACTIONS HAVE RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF NUMEROUS INNOCENT PEOPLE, INCLUDING TWO OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS. AS YOU WILL RECALL, U.S. NEWSMEN, DIAL TORGERSON AND RICHARD CROSS WERE KILLED ON JUNE 21, 1983, WHEN THEIR CAR STRUCK A LAND MINE PLANTED BY NICARAGUAN FORCES ON THE CIFUENTES-LAS TROJES ROAD IN HONDURAS--NEAR TO WHERE THE LATEST INCIDENT OCCURRED. THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, AUGMENTED BY THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION ON THE BORDER ROAD AND THE RECORD OF NICARAGUAN ATTACKS ON THE ROAD BEFORE AND SINCE THE NEWSMEN WERE SLAIN, LEADS TO THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT THE LAND MINE WAS PLANTED BY NICARAGUAN FORCES.

YOU WILL ALSO REMEMBER THAT ON JULY 14 OF LAST YEAR AMBASSADOR ROBERTO MARTINEZ AT ANOTHER SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL DESCRIBED IN EXACTING DETAIL THE ALARMING MILITARIZATION POLICY OF THE SANDINISTA REGIME. HE REVIEWED THE SANDINISTAS' DESTABILIZING ROLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA, NICARAGUA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TOTALITARIAN STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE, WITH CUBA AND OTHER PROMOTERS OF TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION AROUND THE WORLD. HIS DESCRIPTION OF PROVOCATIVE, SUBVERSIVE ACTS BY NICARAGUA AGAINST THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF HONDURAS HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED IN REPEATED NOTES OF PROTEST BY HONDURAS TO THE OAS FOR SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS OF RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL NORMS. I WILL NOT GO INTO ANY OF THESE FLAGRANT CASES, BECAUSE THEY ARE A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.

WE ALSO CAME TOGETHER LAST OCTOBER 5 TO HEAR A PLEA BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA FOR NICARAGUA TO END ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST THAT DEFENSELESS COUNTRY. FOREIGN MINISTER FERNANDO

VOLIO TOLD US HOW HIS COUNTRYMEN HAD BEEN FIRED UPON WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION AT THE BORDER POST OF PENAS BLANCAS. WE HEARD HOW COSTA RICA, A MODEL OF DEMOCRACY AND NON-BELLIGERENCY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND ONE WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY DECLARED ITS NEUTRALITY, HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO REPEATED ANTAGONISTIC ACTIONS BY THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT.

WITH A RECORD AS TAINTED AS THAT OF THE SANDINISTAS, THE LATEST INCIDENT IN HONDURAS COMES AS NO SURPRISE. THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE CURRENT NICARAGUAN MENTALITY KNOW IT IS, "SHOOT FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER." THIS IS THE SAME MENTALITY DEMONSTRATED BY NICARAGUA'S MENTOR AND CHIEF ARMS SUPPLIER, THE SOVIET UNION, ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1983, WHEN IT WANTONLY SHOT DOWN AN UNARMED KOREAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER--A TRAGEDY ROUNDLY CONDEMNED IN THIS COUNCIL.

WITH THE CONTINUING RAPID MILITARY BUILD-UP BY NICARAGUA, THE QUESTION RISES AS TO HOW MANY MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL BE KILLED BEFORE NICARAGUA REALIZES IT MUST LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND ITS OWN PEOPLE. HOW MANY MORE TROOPS WILL THE SANDINISTA ARMY EVENTUALLY HAVE WHEN THE NEW MILITARY DRAFT

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TAKES FULL EFFECT? WITH A POPULATION OF 2.7 MILLION PEOPLE, NICARAGUA ALREADY HAS ACTIVE DUTY FORCES WHICH NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 25,000 WITH ANOTHER 50,000 RESERVISTS AND MILITIA. HOW MANY MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS WILL NICARAGUA OBTAIN FROM THE SOVIET BLOC? IT ALREADY HAS A FORCE FAR EXCEEDING IT LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS, INCLUDING SOVIET-MADE T-55 TANKS, AMPHIBIOUS FERRIES, HELICOPTERS AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. IF THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS THROUGH ON ITS REPORTED INTENTION TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED COMBAT AIRCRAFT, THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION WOULD FURTHER BE ALTERED, CREATING A SITUATION UNACCEPTABLE TO ALL OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND TO THE UNITED STATES. I NEED NOT MENTION THE WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT MORE THAN 2,000 CUBAN MILITARY AND INTERNAL SECURITY ADVISORS ARE IN NICARAGUA TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND CUBAN "CIVILIAN ADVISORS". WITH THE ACTIVE HELP OF THE SOVIET UNION, CUBA, AND OTHER TOTALITARIAN STATES, THE SANDINISTAS CONTINUE TO SUPPLY ARMS AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR THE VIOLENT LEFTISTS ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, AS I AND OTHERS IN THIS DISTINGUISHED BODY HAVE POINTED OUT MANY TIMES, WE AT THE OAS HAVE A SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THE BELLIGERENT BEHAVIOR OF NICARAGUA. WE, WHO READ THE SANDINISTA LETTER OF JULY 12, 1979, TO THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL, FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL OAS MEMBRS, WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE PLEDGES OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL JUSTICE, PEACEFUL TRANSITION, AND FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. ON THE BASIS OF THOSE PLEDGES TO THE OAS WE TOOK THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF WITHDRAWING THE LEGITIMACY OF A SITTING MEMBER. THAT RESULTED IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, USHERING IN THE SANDINISTAS. SINCE 1979, WE HAVE SEEN THE PROMISES BROKEN ONE BY ONE, AND WE MUST REASSESS OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR FULFILLMENT.

THERE, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN NO ELECTIONS. THE SANDINISTAS ARE REPORTEDLY GOING TO ANNOUNCE AN EARLY 1985 DATE FOR ELECTIONS FOR A PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, WE MUST QUESTION HOW FREE AND FAIR THESE ELECTIONS

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WILL BE. OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES POINT OUT THAT THEIR ACCESS TO THE MEDIA IS IN DOUBT, AND THE ELECTORAL LAW REPORTEDLY WILL BAR CANDIDATES OF PARTIES ADVOCATING REVERSAL OF THE SANDINISTA REVOLUTION. AS YOU ALSO KNOW, THE SANDINISTAS HAVE MOVED AGAINST FREE LABOR UNIONS AND OUTLAWED STRIKES. THEY CENSOR THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER, LA PRENSA, AND HAVE ARRESTED PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS ON SPURIOUS CHARGES. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY THAT ESTABLISHED PRIOR CENSORSHIP OF THE MEDIA, BANNED POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND SUSPENDED INDIVIDUAL LEGAL GUARANTEES HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE EARLY 1982. THE CHURCHES OF NICARAGUA HAVE ALSO BEEN HARRASSED, AS HAVE THE ETHNIC MINORITIES-- ESPECIALLY THE MISKITO, SUMA, AND RAMA INDIANS. THE FACT THAT SOME 1,200 MISKITOS ACCOMPANIED BY BISHOP SCHLAEFER RISKED THEIR LIVES TO FLEE NICARAGUA LAST MONTH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. THIS EXODUS CAME, INCIDENTALLY, AT A TIME WHEN THE SANDINISTAS WERE TELLING THE WORLD'S PRESS THAT THEY WERE IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE MISKITOS.

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THE SANDINISTAS HAVE ALSO RECENTLY HINTED TO THE PRESS THEIR ALLEGED WILLINGNESS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE CUBAN PRESENCE AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS. THEY HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OPENING WITH THEIR INTERNAL OPPOSITION. WE FERVENTLY HOPE THIS TIME THAT THERE IS REALITY BEHIND THE RHETORIC, BUT WE CANNOT FORGET THAT IN 1979 SUCH STATEMENTS WERE MADE AND PROVED TO BE EMPTY PROMISES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT THIS COUNCIL TO KNOW THAT THIS LATEST TRAGEDY WILL NOT DETER US FROM OUR QUEST FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WE WILL CONTINUE THE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS ON APRIL 27, 1983. THIS POLICY INCLUDES SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY REFORM, AND HUMAN FREEDOM. IT SUPPORTS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE SECURITY NEEDS OF THE REGION'S THREATENED NATIONS. FINALLY, IT SUPPORTS DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS BOTH AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AND WITHIN EACH COUNTRY.

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IN THIS LATTER REGARD, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 7-9, 1984, MEETING OF THE CONTADORA GROUP AND THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS IN PANAMA. WE WERE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE ESTABLISHED A PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 21-POINT "DOCUMENT OF OBJECTIVES." THE FACT THAT THREE FACT-FINDING COMMISSIONS IN THE AREAS OF SECURITY, POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC AFFAIRS WILL PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS NO LATER THAN NEXT APRIL 30 IS AN INDICATION THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AMONG THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES IS A SERIOUS EFFORT AND IS MOVING FORWARD.

THE MOST RECENT AND PERHAPS THE MOST FAR-SIGHTED MANIFESTATION OF OUR GOALS IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS THE REPORT PREPARED AT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REQUEST BY THE NATIONAL BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON CENTRAL AMERICA, CHAIRED BY DR. HENRY KISSINGER. THIS REPORT, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT LAST WENESDAY, CONCLUDED A SIX-MONTH STUDY BY A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF

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EXPERTS WHO HEARD COUNTLESS HOURS OF TESTIMONY AND VISITED ALL NINE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS GIVEN HIS STRONG SUPPORT TO THIS ADVISORY REPORT AND STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE REPORT CONTAINED MANY FINDINGS BUT KEY AMONG THEM WERE TWO CONCLUSIONS: THE SOLUTION TO CENTRAL AMERICA'S PROBLEMS MUST COME FROM CENTRAL AMERICANS AND HELP FROM THE U.S. IS VITAL. FROM THESE PROPOSITIONS FLOW A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS -- INCREASED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, IMPROVED EDUCATION AND HOUSING, AND SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY. THE REPORT SUGGESTS SOME NEW APPROACHES AND DIPLOMATIC OPTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED DRIVE TO RESTORE PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

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THE NATIONAL BIPARTISAN COMMISSION'S REPORT, I BELIEVE APTLY DESCRIBES THE CHALLENGE FACED BY CENTRAL AMERICA. IT SAYS, AND I QUOTE, "CENTRAL AMERICA'S CONTEMPORARY CRISIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME IN THE MAKING. BY THE LATE 1970's, THE INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS CONFIGURATION OF HISTORIC POVERTY, SOCIAL INJUSTICE, FRUSTRATED EXPECTATIONS, AND CLOSED POLITICAL SYSTEMS WAS SUDDENLY EXACERBATED BY WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION AND BY INTENSIFIED FOREIGN-PROMOTED COMMUNIST INSURGENCY. AND JUST AS THE ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND POLITICAL IMPASSE OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INSURGENTS, THE INSURGENCY AGGRAVATED THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS BY SPREADING VIOLENCE AND FEAR."

THE REPORT MAKES CLEAR THAT AN EXTRACONTINENTAL, ALIEN FORCE HAS ENTERED OUR HEMISPHERE TO EXPLOIT OUR WEAKNESSES, ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. IN RESPONSE, ALL OF US IN THIS HEMISPHERE MUST RECOGNIZE OUR COMMON INTEREST IN RESISTING SUCH A FORCE. OUR RESPONSE MUST BE A REGIONAL ONE, AND OUR OWN

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HIGHLY CREDIBLE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION HAS A CLEAR
RESPONSIBILITY. I KNOW THAT WE ALL REALIZE THE URGENCY AND THE
NECESSITY OF JOINING TOGETHER NOW TO ENSURE THAT THE NATIONS OF
CENTRAL AMERICA CAN FIND THE PEACE THEY SO DESPERATELY SEEK --
ONE IN WHICH OUR FREEDOMS ARE PRESERVED AND DEMOCRACY IS
UPHELD.

THANK YOU.

(1526T)